

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office
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March 2, 2016

Marijuana Discovered concealed in Gas Tank

The release of this case was delayed due to an ongoing investigation –



Schwartz

Thomas



On February 17, 2016, Kyle Schwartz and Keith Thomas, both 27-years-of-age and from Texas, were arrested for Transportation/Possession of Marijuana for Sale, Transportation/Possession of Narcotic Drugs for Sale and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Schwartz and Thomas were transporting about 38 pounds of high grade marijuana and several ounces of THC based 'wax.'

At approximately 8 AM, a YCSO K9 deputy stopped a white Chevy Truck for speeding on east I40 near Ash Fork. Thomas was driving on a suspended license out of Texas. Schwartz was his passenger. While conversing with the occupants, the deputy noticed numerous signs of deception and the occupants of the vehicle appeared more nervous than the innocent motoring public. Both were unable to answer basic questions that a pair travelling together and sharing a destination would commonly know.

Due to suspicions the truck contained drug contraband, the deputy asked Thomas for consent to search and Thomas granted consent. The deputy noticed that the auxiliary gas tank in the truck bed was only being held to the bed with a nylon strap. All external parts on the tank were brand new and unused. The installation appeared recent and hastily completed. After removing a fuel cap, the deputy found the tank empty and noticed an apparent interior false compartment. Thomas, who had been confronted about a hash pipe found in the truck, acknowledged the gas tank concealed a load of marijuana. Deputies were able to open the tank via a panel on the bottom side of the tank and discovered several 1 pound packages of marijuana – a total of 38 pounds. Deputies also found a package of THC based wax amongst the load.

Both suspects admitted to participating in a drug transportation operation. Since their original arrest, each suspect has been sentenced pursuant to a plea agreement and they remain in the Camp Verde Detention Center serving county jail time.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:
www.ycsoaz.gov